School Every Day:

What Effective Principals Do to Improve Attendance
Welcome!

Hedy Chang
Director
Attendance Works
Appreciation

**Sponsors:**
- California Department of Education
- Campaign for Grade-Level Reading
- Attendance Works

**Funders:**
- The California Endowment
- Californians Dedicated to Education Foundation
- The Re(a)d Zone
When it comes to attendance, the principal deserves a PAL! The inaugural PAL (Principal Attendance Leader) award:

• Helps districts recognize school leaders who have effectively lead their school teams to reduce chronic absence

• Highlights and shares best practices
I. Welcome ~ Hedy Chang

II. Principal Panel ~ Gordon Jackson
   • Casey Lewis, Belshaw Elementary School, Antioch Unified School District
   • Dr. Connie Magee, Lindbergh STEM Academy, Long Beach Unified School District
   • Chris Balogh, Del Rio Continuation High School and West Mall Alternative High School, Atascadero Unified School District

III. Announcements
Today’s Panel Moderator

Gordon Jackson
Assistant Superintendent

Coordinated Student Support Division,
California Department of Education
It’s not that I’m so smart, it’s just that I stay with problems longer.
-Albert Einstein

• It is safe to say that we have an attendance problem in too many California schools.

• We know that students are more likely to succeed in life when they start out attending school regularly.

• When students are not in school they are more likely to get “schooled” about life in not the best of ways.

• Dropout patterns are linked with poor attendance beginning in kindergarten.

• School budgets are linked to attendance and schools with high absences have less money to address essential classroom needs.
California Context
Chronic Absence in the Elementary Grades is a Major Barrier to Achievement

An estimated 230,000 students (K–5) were Chronically Absent in 2014–15.

Source: Office of California Attorney General Kamala Harris. In School + On Track 2015
Benefits of Reducing Chronic Absence Starting with the Elementary Grades

• Increase funding for districts (More Average Daily Attendance)

• Chronic absence (missing 10 percent of school for any reason including excused and unexcused absence) in elementary school has often been overlooked

• Reduce negative student outcomes linked with absenteeism such as lack of proficiency in reading by third grade and eventual course failure and dropout.
Panel Discussion

- **Casey Lewis**, Principal
  Belshaw Elementary School
  Antioch Unified School District

- **Connie Magee**, Principal
  Lindbergh STEM Academy
  Long Beach Unified School District

- **Chris Balogh**, Principal
  Del Rio Continuation High School and
  West Mall Alternative High School
  Atascadero Unified School District
Questions

• How do you create a culture of attendance at a school?
• At what point did you have access to chronic absence data and what did you learn about who is most affected?
• Team approach – Who did you pull together and what did you do to reduce chronic absence?
• How have you gone beyond the school walls and worked with community partners to reduce absenteeism?
More Questions

- Addressing behavior/discipline is key in the upper grades. How did you do this?
- What have been the results to date and how are you tracking them?
- Any final comments or advice to other principals that have not looked at chronic absence?
Our Special Guests

Casey Lewis

Connie Magee

Chris Balogh
Belshaw Elementary School

Chronic Absence Trend 2012-2015

- Severe Chronic Absence
- Moderate Chronic Absence

* 2015-16 as of October 30, 2015
Lindberg STEM Academy

Chronic Absence 2012-15

- 2012-13: 20%
- 2013-14: 18%
- 2014-15: 11%

Chronic Absence 2012-15
Attendance at Lindbergh
Atascadero

Atascadero Unified School District

Percentage of Students with Chronic Absence (10% or more) Over Time, by Grade Level

- 2012-2013
- 2013-2014
- 2014-2015

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Questions?
Cecelia Leong
Associate Director
Announcements & Resources
Leading Attendance in California

http://www.attendanceworks.org/policy-advocacy/state-reports/california/california-principals-toolkit
If you missed the previous webinar and want to learn more about the *Leading Attendance in California* toolkit, you can find the recording here:

http://www.attendanceworks.org/peer-learning-resources/
It’s Not Too Late - Nominate a Principal

When it comes to attendance, the principal deserves a PAL!
The inaugural PAL (Principal Attendance Leader) award:

• Recognizes school leaders who have effectively lead their school teams to reduce chronic absence

• Highlights best practices

Nominate a principal today!
http://www.attendanceworks.org/tools/for-school-districts/nominate-a-principal/
Updated Holiday Toolkit

http://www.attendanceworks.org/tools/for-public-messaging/holiday-messaging/
Every Student, Every Day

A Virtual Summit Sponsored by the US Department of Education

November 12, 2015 ~ 11 -12:15 Pacific Time

Register Now!

http://www.attendanceworks.org/peer-learning-resources/
To our partners in the California Attendance Peer Learning Network and to our funders:

• Californians Dedicated to Education Foundation
• The California Endowment
• Campaign for Grade-Level Reading
• The Re(a)d Zone, a Bay Area early literacy initiative of the 50 Fund, the legacy fund of the Super Bowl 50 Host Committee
Please Give Us Your Feedback

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PAL_CAL

Thank you for participating!